

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 H-02 DODE-00 L-03 PM-04 /022 W

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P R 131843Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6787

INFO SECRETARY OF ABMC, WASHDC

UNCLAS PARIS 1098

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI, FR, US

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY ABOUT WAR MEMORIAL IN
FRANCE

REF: STATE 4711

1. EMBASSY HAS CONTACTED GENERAL DONALDSON WHO HAS
PROVIDED US WITH FOLLOWING BACKGROUND INFORMATION WHICH
MAY BE USEFUL FOR SECRETARY'S REPLY TO CONGRESSMAN
TEAGUE.

2. IN JANUARY 1975 COMMITTEE OF POINTE DU HOC REQUESTED
THAT ABMC ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR MEMORIAL SITE.
EUROPEAN OFFICE/ABMC FORWARDED COMMITTEE'S REQUEST TO
LOCAL PREFECT, REQUESTING THAT FURTHER ACTION BE TAKEN
BY GOF TO TRANSFER NOHUMENT SITE TO ABMC.

3. FROM JANUARY THROUGH APRIL LOCAL FRENCH OFFICIALS
COORDINATED TRANSFER PROPOSAL. FILE WAS FINALLY FORWARDED
TO MINISTRY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (MVA) IN MAY AND ABMC
WAS INFORMED BY LOCAL PREFECT THAT HE THOUGHT TRANSFER
WOULD BE POSSIBLE IN SUMMER OF 1975. HOWEVER, MVA
INFORMED ABMC IN AUGUST THAT NEGOTIATIONS FOR REQUIRED
LAND EXPROPRIATIONS WOULD NOT BE FINISHED UNTIL END OF
YEAR. IN NOVEMBER, ABMC WAS TOLD THAT FILE HAD BEEN
FORWARDED TO CABINET MINISTER LEVEL FOR DECISION WITH
RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL OF TRANSFER. ABMC MADE PRELIMINARY
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ENGINEERING AND HORTICULTURAL STUDIES OF SITE

AND WAS PREPARED TO ASSUME MAINTENANCE RESPONSIBILITY AS
SOON AS TRANSFER WAS EFFECTED.

4. ABMC CONTACTED MVA JANUARY 9 TO INQUIRE ABOUT STATUS
OF TRANSFER. THEY WERE ADVISED THAT A LETTER WAS BEING
SENT TO RAYMOND TRIBOULET, PRESIDENT OF THE D-DAY
COMMEMORATION COMMITTEE. CONTENTS OF THIS LETTER NOT
FULLY DISCLOSED; HOWEVER, IT APPEARS THAT SOME QUOTE
JURIDICAL QUESTIONS UNQUOTE MUST BE RESOLVED PRIOR TO
LAND EXPROPRIATION AND THIS WOULD REQUIRE AMERICAN
GOVERNMENT REQUEST FOR RIGHTS TO THE LAND. THE MVA
SUGGESTED THAT ABMC CONTACT TRIBOULET 8-10 DAYS HENCE
TO DISCUSS DETAILS OF LETTER.

5. GENERAL DONALDSON CONTINUES TO MONITOR STATUS OF
TRANSFER PROCEEDINGS THROUGH INFORMAL CONTACTS WITH GOF
AND INTERESTED FRENCH ORGANIZATIONS, SUCH AS COMMITTEE
OF POINTE DU HOC AND D-DAY COMMEMORATION COMMITTEE.
WILL ADVISE OF ANY FURTHER PROGRESS AS SOON AS INFORMATION
BECOMES AVAILABLE.
RUSH

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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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